

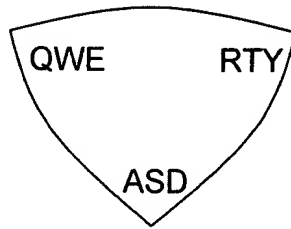
III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-13, 15-18, and 22 remain in the application. Claims 19-21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 12, and 15 have been amended.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-13, 15-18, and 22 are enabling under 35 USC 112, first paragraph and are definite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth below.

The application as filed suggests that a single character could result from pressing each "wing" or corner of a multi-character key. For example, referring to Figure 1 in the application, pressing the upper left corner of key 110 gives "Q", pressing the upper right corner of the same key gives "W", and pressing the lowest corner of the same key gives "A". Thus there could be a "first candidate group" having only a single character "Q", a second candidate group consisting of "W" and a third candidate group consisting of "A".

Then, on page 2 the description makes reference to a previous publication WO 97/05541, which suggests that a key could be associated with a group of characters, so that a single press on that key would initially give an input like "A or D or F" (see the letters ADF on the topmost middle key in Figure 1B of the reference). Combining the teachings of the incorporated reference document with the literal teachings of the present application as filed, Applicants note that it would be perfectly possible to construct an embodiment of the present invention where a corner or "wing" of a key could comprise multiple characters, as shown in the diagram below:



Referring to the top of page 6 in the original description, it is stated that the "input" means the character corresponding to the recognised dome and the other characters of the recognised key. Further, lines 30-31 of page 6 state that "another character corresponding to the pressed key is selected in phase 855 for further comparisons". Applicants finds that these statements disclose, at least implicitly, an embodiment similar to the one shown above in the drawing.

Another interpretation of the "candidate group" concept is even more readily deducible from the original description. Assume that we have the key 110 as illustrated in Figure 1 of the present application. The user presses the upper left corner, causing the letter "Q" to be the primary input. However, taking into account the possibility that the user made a small mistake in directing the movement of his finger and "Q" was not what he intended, the letters "W" and "A" are at least more probable alternatives than letters that are far from the point where the user made the key press. After all, "W" and "A" are characters associated with the same key as "Q". They are both equally close to "Q", so it may be difficult to predict, which of "W" or "A" would be the most probable correct alternative if the user did not mean to press "Q". Thus, we may define that the "first

candidate group" consists of "Q", and the "second candidate group" consists of "W or A". While the term "candidate group" is not explicitly defined, this concept is clearly explained on page 6, lines 25-33.

Let us now analyse the appearance of the "candidate group" concept in the claims. Let us begin with the first and simplest embodiment described above, in which each "candidate group" only has a single character in it. When a user presses e.g. the upper left corner of key 110 in Figure 1, the character "Q" is selected on the sectional pressure distribution of the pressed key. This character certainly belongs to the first candidate group, because the first candidate group only consists of "Q". The processor starts making the linguistic comparisons: it essentially investigates, whether augmenting the previous inputs with "Q" makes any linguistic sense. If not, we say that the first comparison is unsuccessful, and the processor performs a second comparison, this time augmenting the previous inputs with letter "W", because that belongs (and completely constitutes) the second candidate group.

Alternatively we may consider that embodiment in which the character that coincides with the detected pressure point constitutes alone the first candidate group and all other characters associated with the same key constitute the second candidate group. When a user now presses the upper left corner of key 110 in Figure 1, "Q" is the only member of the first candidate group and the sole input to the first comparison. Should the first comparison prove to be unsuccessful, the processor takes "W or A" as the second candidate group and makes the second comparison by trying each of these in turn.

As the most complicated alternative we may consider keys like that shown above in the drawing. In this case it is easy to understand that even a single press on one of the corners gives rise to a real character group, which thus constitutes the first candidate group. The second candidate group may then include the three characters appearing on another corner of the key, or even of the all remaining six characters on the key.

Note that the "candidate group" concept was not meant to refer to any word or phrase, which is an impression we inferred from the language used in the Examiner's rejections. A "candidate group" is a group of one or a few characters, which the device recognises to constitute the selection of possible characters which the user meant when he pressed a key. During a linguistic disambiguation or "comparison" as it is called in the claims, it is possible that the device compares a word to a stored vocabulary, but the word to be used in the comparison is then the combination of characters produced in previous key presses and one additional character selected from the candidate group: if the first candidate group consists e.g. of letters "K" and "L" and previous inputs have produced "WAL", the first comparison means comparing the words "WALK" and "WALL" to the stored vocabulary. Still, the candidate group is "K or L", and does not refer to the above-mentioned words that are produced by combining one character from the candidate group to previous inputs at a time.

In light of the arguments and explanations above, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly point out the invention.

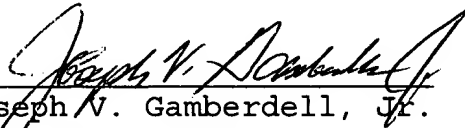
For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and

are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed for one (1) month extension of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695


11 July 2005
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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